

Vol. 21, No. 8/August 1999

# VIKING FLYER



934th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn.

## Coronet Oak

Wing heads back to  
Puerto Rico as lead unit

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Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

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## On the cover

**Tech. Sgt. Rob Arkulary,** 96th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, deployed on the wing's first Coronet Oak rotation in Puerto Rico. For more on the recent trip and news on the next one, starting in August, see Page 5.



*Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz*

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## UTA schedule

**Sept. 11-12\*** • UTA entrees:  
**Oct. 2-3** Saturday,  
**Nov. 6-7** spaghetti/chicken;  
**Dec. 4-5** Sunday, fish/meat  
loaf. Meals served  
at Air Guard facility.  
**\*Family Day,**  
**Sept. 12** • UTA pay date:  
**Aug. 18.**

934th Airlift Wing on the Internet:  
<http://www.afrc.af.mil/934aw/default.htm>

## Commentary

# Family support

## High operations tempo puts pressure on families

**Col. Richard Moss**  
Wing Commander

**I**n last month's *Viking Flyer*, I highlighted the high operations tempo the wing has been performing over the past several months. We have recently learned there will be even more operations as we continue to support Coronet Oak and other missions in the months ahead (*story, Page 5*).

No one is more familiar with our operations tempo than our husbands, wives, parents and children. Unfortunately, family events — such as soccer games, school activities and anniversaries — are often forced to take a back seat to our Reserve commitments. Without fail, our family members continue to provide an unwavering level of support and understanding. For this support, I thank all of our family members.

Yet it would be naïve to suggest this level of tempo does not put pressure on each military member's family. Deployments can create a number of stresses on families, including financial hardships and emotional strain.

What sets the Air Force apart is the finest family support system in the world. The Air Force has created a worldwide system of support services and people to make our time away as easy as possible on our family members.

There are a variety of basic services including financial support, crisis intervention services, morale calls and videophones, and spouse support groups. These represent only a small portion of what our family support centers can provide. If your spouse or parent is deployed or preparing to deploy, please call our family readiness office, Ext. 1516, to learn more about these services.

Our military members who remain behind also have a family support responsibility. When a member of your unit deploys, step up and make

sure their families are looked after. Babysitting children for a few evenings or having the family over for dinner can go a long way in minimizing the stress associated with a deployment.

Another area of concern for deployed members is their civilian employer. Each unit should work to keep the civilian employers of their deployed members informed of their deployment status and family situation. Many civilian employers are willing to provide aid to family members, but they must be kept informed and know there is a need. This proactive posture can minimize bad feelings with civilian employers and can provide for a smoother transition when our members return.

The operations tempo will continue to be busy in the foreseeable future, so family readiness should continue to be a top priority for everyone in the wing. To honor our family members, the wing will have its annual Family Day on Sunday of our September unit training assembly (*story, Page 7*). I look forward to meeting the extended members of our wing family and encourage each of you to bring your family to the UTA. □



**Moss**

## Commander's Hot Line 713-HOTL

**Call Ext. 4685 to record questions for the wing commander. Callers may remain anonymous.**

**Questions of general interest will be answered in the *Viking Flyer*.**



Air Force

## Under secretary nominated

**President Clinton** has nominated **Carol DiBattiste** as the under secretary of the Air Force.

DiBattiste, of Miami, Fla., retired from the Air Force in April 1991. She then served as assistant U.S. attorney, Southern District of Florida, where she has been deputy U.S. attorney since January 1998. From 1993 to 1994, she served as principal deputy general counsel of the Navy.

The under secretary of the Air Force is the second ranking civilian position in the Department of the Air Force. *(Air Force Print News)*

## Pilot, navigator age limit raised

The Air Force is raising flying training age limits in an effort to increase opportunities for otherwise qualified candidates. This is the first change of this type in 45 years.

The change raises the age limit for applicants for pilot

and navigator training from 27 and a half to 30 years of age and less than five commissioned years of service. This policy is effective with the fiscal 2000 flying training boards meeting Oct. 26-29. *(AFPN)*

## Personnel functions studied

Air Mobility Command has announced a multifunction cost comparison study of personnel support functions at its active-duty bases.

The study impacts a total of 208 military and 37 civilian members in education services, customer service, base training, personnel systems and readiness, personnel relocation and career enhancement.

The cost comparison is projected for completion within 36 months. It will be conducted in compliance with Air Force policies implementing the Office of Management and Budget A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities. This

*(Continued on next page)*

# Internet: modern weapon of war

2nd Lt. Kevin Lynch

22nd Communications Squadron,  
McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

## Web surfers may find Net use scrutinized

**W**hy does the Air Force care where you go on the Internet?

It's not that we are "big brother," and it's definitely not because we don't have better things to do than monitor our computers. It all boils down to one simple fact: The network is a weapons system. The network is a force multiplier. In today's Air Force, computers and computer networks are an integral part of most of our jobs. They facilitate communications, increase productivity and leverage our limited manpower. Networked computers are involved in planning missions, tracking supplies, processing security clearances, even filing taxes on-line. There's very little we do that a computer doesn't help us with.

So back to the question: Why does the Air Force care about the use of the Internet? Like everything else, our connection to the Internet is a limited resource. There is only so much information-carrying capacity available. You may not be aware, but the connection we use for several of our command and control systems, e-mail, supply and payroll systems is the same one that we use to access the Internet. So, if I choose to go to a graphics-intensive site with streaming video and sound, I'm consuming a portion of that precious resource that our mission-essential software is using. When you have close to 3,000 users on a base, that is a significant impact on our systems.

Even simple acts like browsing sports pages or checking on the price of stocks impacts the mission. Many

of you have noted how slow the connection to the commercial side of the Internet can be at times. It is a mild

annoyance if you're trying to get the line-up for tonight's game, but it can be a work stoppage for contracting trying to get a quote on a new item, or for a system administrator who is trying to download an important security patch.

The Air Force is also concerned about our people visiting inappropriate sites. You may not be aware, but many Web sites record who visits them for marketing research. What impression does it give the public when a Web site for sports receives thousands of hits a day from \*.mil sites? If I worked for that Web company, I'd wonder why my hard-earned tax money is being spent so the military can check the sports scores online while at work.

Also, what is the impression to the public when a hate-crime or pornography site or an illicit drug or even a political campaign site receives hits from the military? We don't allow our members to go to political functions or to nightclubs in uniform, but when you travel to unofficial sites on the Internet, you are, in a sense, in uniform.

The Internet is a valuable resource. It provides a tremendous amount of information in an easy-to-find format. But, like all resources, it must be carefully managed. The Air Force blocks sites on the Internet that are inappropriate to ensure there is enough bandwidth available for mission systems. When it comes to blocking a site, it is exactly like cordoning off a firing range or designating a military operations area. It ensures clear skies to conduct our training and prepare for our missions. We are doing the same — clearing the Internet so the training and mission can go on. *(Air Force Print News)* □

(Continued from previous page)

circular reaffirms the government's policy to rely on the private sector for products and services. (AMC News Service)

## Uniform shopping made easy

Shopping for military uniforms can be as easy as browsing the Internet. Catalogs from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are available worldwide for authorized customers at:

<http://www.aafes.com>

① Though identical in product selection, the electronic catalogs do not replace the paper versions, still available in clothing sales stores or by calling (888) 768-3204. (AFPN, "must run")

## Reserve

### Reserve pilot dies in crash

An Air Force Reserve Command pilot from Homestead Air Reserve Station, Fla., was killed when his single-seat F-16 fighter aircraft crashed at 11:36 a.m. July 1 in a remote area near Avon Park Bombing Range.

**Maj. Samuel D'Angelo III** crashed while performing a low-level training mission near Sebring in central Florida. The aircraft was part of a four-ship formation.

A traditional reservist with 19 years of military service, D'Angelo was a pilot for American Airlines and a resident of Key Largo, Fla. (AFRC News Service)

## Reservist selected in 'top 12'

**Tech. Sgt. Darin Miley**, a reservist with the 6th Space Operations Squadron, Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., has become the first full-time Active Guard and Reserve member selected as one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Operations superintendent and additional duty first sergeant, Miley helped establish the 6th SOPS.

Forty-eight bluesuiters representing major commands, direct reporting units and Air Staff agencies competed for the honor. (AFRCNS)

## Local

### Chapel volunteers needed

The wing chapel staff needs pianists for unit training assembly services.

The Catholic service is at 8 a.m. on Sundays, followed by the Protestant service at 9 a.m. Also, anyone interested in playing another instrument or being a song leader is welcome.

① For more information, call the chapel during UTA weekends, Ext. 1226 or 1227. □

## Membership campaign starts

The Air Force Sergeants Association 1999 membership campaign runs July 1-Dec. 31. Twin Cities Chapter 858 is close to reaching its 1,000 member goal, according to **Master Sgt. Lin Davidson**, 934th Operations Support Flight member and chapter president.

"AFSA provides many benefits, such as insurance and travel discounts," said Davidson, "and it's the only organization that represents the enlisted voice, present day and retired, on Capitol Hill. For example, AFSA was at the forefront in making sure military technicians, both Guard and Reserve, kept their 15 days of military leave annually."

① For more information or applications, check in unit orderly rooms or call Davidson, (612) 884-6077.

## Split-disbursement option offered

Members with the NationsBank travel charge card now can elect a split disbursement when submitting travel vouchers. Travelers indicate on the voucher the dollar amount to go directly to NationsBank for payment.

① For more information on this new payment option, call the travel section, Ext. 1408, 1416 or 1417.

## Photo lab moves to headquarters

The wing photo lab, 934th Communications Flight, relocated to Bldg. 760, Room 140, near the mail room. The phone number remained the same, Ext. 1620. Passport photos are taken 8-10:30 a.m. on drill Sundays; full-length photos are taken by appointment only. For other requirements, complete an Air Force Form 833, Visual Information Work Order, and call for an appointment.

① For photo lab and audio visual support or scheduling during the week, call **Joan Bolesworth**, Ext. 1030.

## Readiness position available

The 934th Civil Engineer Squadron has an opening in the disaster preparedness/readiness career field. Qualified applicants must attend an 11-week technical school at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., within one year of assignment.

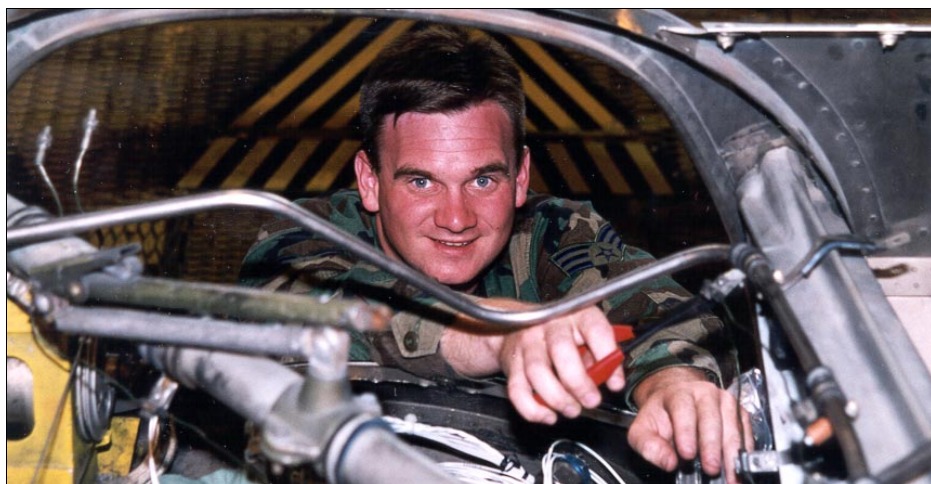
① Interested individuals should call **Senior Master Sgt. Clark Johnson**, Ext. 1951, to set up an interview.

## Retiree program planned

An annual Retiree Appreciation Days event is set for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 24-25, at the Fort Snelling Historical Site auditorium, Minneapolis, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The program is open to all military retirees, including spouses and widows, from all service branches.

① For details or reservations, call **Chief Warrant Officer Gerald Blume**, (651) 738-7672; **Col. Wayne Farnberg**, (320) 846-8725; **Command Sgt. Maj. Owen Hefner**, (507) 263-2096, or **Lt. Col. John Nowicki**, (612) 894-1857. □





Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

*Senior Airman Scott Fitzgerald, 934th Maintenance Squadron, spent 15 days deployed to Puerto Rico. His specialty is C-130 electrical environmental systems.*

## Coronet Oak

### Mission saga continues as Puerto Rico becomes 'new Panama'

**Tech. Sgt. Larry Dean**  
Public Affairs

**T**he 934th Airlift Wing will serve as the lead unit for Coronet Oak rotations to Puerto Rico, August through September, a little more than a month after completing two rotations there.

C-130E units were tasked to handle Coronet Oak while C-130H units continue taking care of Operation Shining Hope requirements, according to **Lt. Col. Rob Spence**, deputy commander of the 934th Operations Group. Spence will serve as mission commander for the additional rotations. The 934th will be working with the 913th Airlift Wing, Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa., and the 403rd Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

"Our increased involvement relieves the H-model units and is just as important, even though it doesn't involve combat pay or medals," said Spence.

A total of 115 wing members served on two rotations, June 5-19 and June 19-July 3. Coronet Oak host operations relocated from Howard Air Force Base, Panama, to Puerto Rico in May, and the first 934th air and ground crews noted many changes.

"We are really on our own with the new location," said **Maj. Mike Huttner**, mission commander for one of the rotations. "Many things we've

grown accustomed to in rotations to Panama are not available there."

Huttner said there's no hospital, aerial port, in-flight kitchen, maintenance support or supplies that were available in Panama. "In fact, the rotations are new enough from there that many boxes of equipment are yet to be unpacked," he said.

He added it was a pleasant change in environment to be hosted out of San Juan International Airport, with crews' efforts fulfilling a great need for Southern Command in supporting their mission.

"Aircrews flew shuttle missions to deliver supplies and people to various locations in Central and South America, including the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru, Honduras, Columbia and El Salvador," Huttner said. "Among the more exciting missions, we were called upon to fly ambassadors and families from Ecuador and Peru to a peace conference and signing of an agreement to end their border disputes. We saw a lot of international presence for that event."

He said wing members also served as alert crews, prepared for short-notice calls to handle possible emergencies such as search and rescue or shuttle assistance should an embassy staff need to relocate due to hostile threat.

**Senior Master Sgt. Jim Schmidt**, noncommissioned officer in

charge of loadmasters, noted that the new Puerto Rico location is much smaller than the previous home, with limited ramp space prompting the need to tow aircraft before they could taxi for flight.

"The Puerto Rico Air National Guard members were great to work with while we were there," said Schmidt. "Besides handling the loads for our missions, we helped provide them some training using the k-loaders and forklifts, and we taught them how to efficiently load the aircraft so it can be quickly unloaded."

Schmidt said the unit is in the process of converting from fighter aircraft to C-130s. "We also taught them how to build up a pallet and secure the netting," he said.

Schmidt pointed out that although the new location offers more opportunities to enjoy off-duty time, both Puerto Rico and Panama are comparable in terms of work. "Both locations are good to work from," he said. "There's a lot going on there, and I think the new Coronet Oak home will be a real good place."

Huttner agreed, adding, "It's a different way of doing business while we are working through the initial logistics, but it will continue to be a great training opportunity for our people while meeting the needs of Southern Command." □



## Wing around the world:

# August

**27th APS:** Germany, Oklahoma

**934th AES:** Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Texas

**96th AS:** Florida, Mississippi, New Mexico, Washington

**934th ASTS:** Colorado, Texas

**934th AW HQ/MSF:** California, Georgia, Massachusetts

**934th CES:** Mississippi, Texas, Wisconsin

**934th CF:** Maryland, Mississippi

**934th LSS:** No report

**934th MXS:** Colorado, Maryland, Nebraska, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Texas

**934th OSF:** Puerto Rico

**934th SFS:** Georgia, New Jersey, Texas

**934th SVS:** England, Germany, New York

*This list shows official travel destinations for wing members, via commercial or military transportation. For space-available travel information, call the 96th Airlift Squadron, Ext. 1741, or the local Air National Guard wing, Ext. 2450. □*

# Wing roundup

## 27th Aerial Port Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson*

Four unit members continue to support the redeployment phase of the Kosovo relief effort while on an extended active-duty tour in Germany. Two C-130s from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., flew two missions each to deliver 100,000 pounds of wheat to the squadron for palletizing prior to airlift to Bosnia. A C-5 from Dover AFB, Del., will be here for the Military Expo '99, July 31-Aug. 1, also providing valuable training. The squadron will prepare six aerial delivery loads and load them on the aircraft, which will airdrop them at Camp Ripley, Minn. The loads will then be recovered by unit members.

## 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

*Senior Airman*

*Elizabeth Quaidoo*

Squadron members returned from annual tour in Japan, receiving certificates of appreciation from Yokota Air Base. The annual fitness walk was completed. Plans remain under continuous refinement for the October joint medical exercise in conjunction with the Readiness Exercise. The unit is also preparing for "Steadfast VI," an exercise set for Oct. 21-24 at Fort Lewis, Wash.

## 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

*Staff Sgt. Michael Sanford*

Members completed physicals, drug testing, chemical warfare training, infection control/blood-borne

pathogen training and specialty training in July.

## 96th Airlift Squadron

*Senior Airman Jess Lind*

The wing will be the lead unit for the August and September rotations to Puerto Rico for Coronet Oak, sending nine crews in three rotations. The squadron performed tactical training at the Jordan, Minn., drop zone during the July drill. Also, a number of members completed ability to survive and operate training.

## 934th Civil Engineer Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews*

Pavement and grounds members were deployed to River Falls, Wis., to continue excavation training and work on the community park project. The electrical and power production shops began repair and restoration work on airfield light fixtures and transformers for the Camp Ripley, Minn., airfield extension project. The power production shop also conducted phase rotation checks on all base building transformers in preparation of Y2K backup power hookups. The heating/ventilation/air conditioning shop serviced and repaired the air conditioning system in the parachute shop.

## 934th Communications Flight

*Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz*

Many unit members have been involved in community activities in recent months. **Senior Master Sgt. Karen Wilson** participated in several parades with the

wing float. She and **Master Sgt. Sonja Fisher** served as ushers for an Air Force Band of the Heartland performance in July. **Tech. Sgt. Allen Williams** and **Staff Sgt. Heidi Schmidt** worked at the family readiness booth at the Military Expo '99. **Tech. Sgts. Richard Loesch** and **Karl Thorner**, and **Senior Airman Cory Demuth** will also participate in the expo.

## 934th Logistics Support Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Alma De La Garza*  
No report.

## 934th Maintenance Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Steven Lerbakken*  
Squadron members received a plaque and thanks from **Lt. Col. Rob Spence**, deputy

commander of the 934th Operations Group, for the fine condition in which the aircraft are maintained. A total of 122 members attended ability to survive and operate training during the July drill.

## 934th Operations Support Flight

*Master Sgt. Cara Utecht*

Members from intelligence will continue deploying with wing members to Puerto Rico for Coronet Oak. Their primary job is keeping aircrews informed of possible threats at their travel destinations. They also remain focused on force protection for everyone deployed. We said farewell to **Maj. Thomas Hueg**, who accepted a four-year Air Guard Reserve assignment with the Joint Chiefs of Staff J-3 operations staff at the Pentagon.

*(Continued on next page)*

# Family Day: 'Come out and have fun'

## September celebration offers activities for Reserve families

**W**ing reservists bid farewell to summer with the celebration of Family Day, Sunday, Sept. 12, starting at 11 a.m.

The goal of this year's event, according to **David Lilja**, chief of services, is for reservists and their families to have a good time. "We want people to come out and have fun and relax," he said.

In line with that goal, military units won't be obligated to sponsor booths as in the past. Also, the goal is to offer a low- or no-cost event.

"We're slowly trying to get away from selling things at Family Day," Lilja said, "so if cost is involved, it will be nominal. We want to offer a picnic-type environment with little cost."

Many details were not confirmed at press time, but most activities will take place near the ballfields and Base Exchange. A tentative list of activities include:

- A picnic lunch hosted by the civilian component of the 934th Services Squadron. The menu will include such items as hamburgers, bratwursts, hot dogs, potato salad and beans;

- A wing C-130 on static display;
- Children's games and activities, all free of charge;
- Recreational activities such as softball and volleyball, and the fitness center will be open;
- The Base Exchange will host an outdoor "tent sale," 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and
- The Minnesota State Patrol may bring their police dogs for demonstrations.

The 934th Family Readiness Program plans to sponsor a number of activities:

- Health fair,
- Book and art fair, and
- Rummage and craft sale. For the sale, only military



*Tech. Sgt. John Byerly*

**Maj. Donald Fleischmann, 96th Airlift Squadron pilot, and his son, John Reid, checked out the C-130 static display in last year's Family Day.**

members, Department of Defense employees and family members may bring items for an individual/family table, with a 10 percent donation suggested to the Friends of Family Readiness. For more details call **Patricia Botkins**, Ext. 1516. □

## Wing roundup ...

*(Continued from previous page)*

### 934th Security Forces Squadron

**Staff Sgt. Barry Haukoos**  
The squadron prepared for deployment to Phoenix Readiness at Fort Dix, N.J., building pallets and conducting a mobility processing line. Individual squads discussed operating procedures for field

operations. Two members participated in a robbery exercise with the finance office.

### 934th Services Squadron

**Airmen 1st Class Kristen Maloney**  
Meals were served successfully at the NCO Club during the July drill. The August meals will be

served by wing services members at the Air Guard dining facility. The golf tournament was changed to the August drill in hopes the weather would be better.

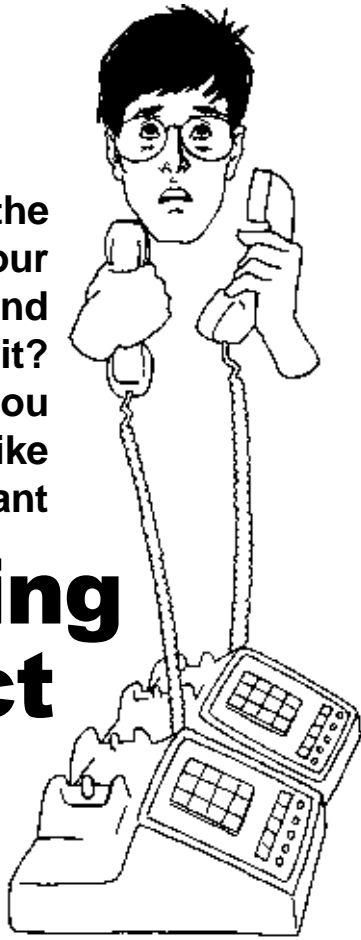
### Wing Headquarters/ 934th Mission Support Flight

**Staff Sgt. Linda Jimenez**  
Family readiness members recently attended a two-day

workshop sponsored by the Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region, covering topics such as suicide prevention, family violence prevention and public affairs. Financial management members held an exercise on deployed locations in July to evaluate their ability to handle a variety of situations possible during deployed operations. □

Can you juggle the  
needs of both your  
civilian boss and  
your Reserve unit?  
Or do you  
sometimes feel like  
it's all a giant

## Balancing act



**Capt. Robert Clark**  
Public Affairs

*"I didn't know you were in the Reserve."  
"You're going to be gone for how long?"  
"Well, then, I guess you're fired."  
"Can you work for us remotely from Macedonia?"*

If David Letterman were ranking the top things you wouldn't want to hear from your employer before a deployment, these statements would rank pretty high.

But with the increasing role of the Air Force Reserve in worldwide contingencies, employer relations is no laughing matter. Wing members should take a close look at their employer relationships to ensure both sides are aware of their rights and potential duty requirements.

Communication is the key, said **Terrence Quigley**, Minnesota State Chair for the Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

"Constant communication between the military member and the employer is very critical," said Quigley. "Give the employer any information that will take you away from your civilian job as early as possible. Also stress the flexibility of the employer being flexible to any training deployments above the requirement for annual tour and drill weekends."

To aid in the communications process, the 934th publishes unit training assembly and annual tour schedules a year in advance. This allows reservists ample time to educate their employer on their duty schedule and requirements. The wing also sponsors an annual Employer's Day to acquaint employers of wing members on the role and mission of the Air Force Reserve and the wing.

If problems do arise, ESGR offers an ombudsman program, which is an informal mediation service available to employers or uniformed service members who are experiencing conflict because of military duties.

"Before complaints reach the ombudsman, military members and their employers must try to work out their problems with their military supervisors and commanders first," said Quigley. "The state ESGR committee members would get involved next to try to explain and work out the conflict with the employer and military member. The ombudsman is your last chance before it goes to the U.S. Department of Labor."

Once deployed, the Reserve member is afforded a number of rights under The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act of 1994.

Among the rights provided under the act are:

- **Health insurance during service.** If you ask for it, your employer must continue to carry you and your family on the company health plan for up to 30 days of service.

- **Prompt reinstatement.** You get your job back immediately if you were gone 30 days or less and within days if you served longer.

- **Status and seniority.** For purposes of status, seniority, and most pension rights — including pay rate — you are treated as if you never left for military service. If your peers got promotions or raises while you were gone, you do, too.

- **Special protection against discharge other than for cause.** If you are fired within a protected period, your employer must prove the firing wasn't because of military service. Your protected period varies with how long you were gone.

To learn about additional rights under USSERRA, members can contact the wing legal office, Ext. 1230.

Many employers have progressive Reserve policies and go the extra mile to support their Reserve employees. Members should consider nominating these employers for ESGR awards.

"Annual recognition of their civilian employers is a must for all Reserve and Guard members," said Quigley. "Point out the policies and practices that your civilian employer is doing if they go beyond the legal requirement. It will turn into a win-win situation for the military member and their civilian employer."

To learn more about ESGR, call (800) 336-4590, or in Minnesota, call (651) 296-4223. Also, visit the Web site at:

[www.ncesgr.osd.mil](http://www.ncesgr.osd.mil) □



# 'Survival training' Wing takes lead in teaching members new chemical warfare procedures

**Cherie Huntington**  
Public Affairs

**F**ollowing major changes in what is now called "nuclear biological chemical defense training," the 934th Airlift Wing stepped up to lead-wing responsibilities in 22nd Air Force.

Air Force-level changes in May included new training requirements, switching from dry to wet decontamination procedures. Also, information in the regulation covering the contamination control line blossomed from a mere nine pages to 85 pages.

**Senior Master Sgt. Clark Johnson**, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron readiness superintendent, said the wing's readiness council — consisting of the wing and group commanders — immediately took a proactive stance amidst the changes.

"They said we needed more hands-on ability to survive and operate training to meet the new requirements," said Johnson, "so instead of creating another class and require more time from our reservists, they brainstormed to create one class to fulfill both old and new needs."

The result was a two-and-a-half hour course packed with hands-on activity. The new course started last month, with approximately 300 wing members receiving training.

Johnson said this course will be attended annually by each member filling a mobility position, receiving credit for refresher chemical warfare training.

"Our goal is to train around 1,000 wing members between now and October," Johnson said. "In the October exercise, the readiness council will evaluate the success of the training."

The course starts with a 45-minute classroom review, followed by less than two hours in the proficiency training area located in



*Tech. Sgt. Sherrill Beecher*

*A buddy team practices the new liquid decontamination method, using a water and bleach mixture to neutralize chemicals and kill biological agents.*

the field across from the wing headquarters, Bldg. 760. Members work in teams of 10 to practice a number of actions, including identifying/marketing unexploded ordnance, don the chemical ensemble, check for contamination with M-8/M-9 paper, receive antidote training and go through the 12-station decontamination process.

"We're trying to make it realistic," Johnson said. "There's only so much we can do with the limited training time allotted. We're trying to get the most training in the least time."

The change from dry to wet contamination control means no more kitty litter in the shuffle box. The liquid decontaminant is water and 5 percent bleach, and now there is a way to test effectiveness.

"We spray a light mist of whitening detergent to the chemical overgarment prior to starting the process," said Johnson. Once the member goes through the contamination control area, an instructor uses an ultraviolet light to check for detergent traces, which glow. □

## Class prep suggested

**T**rainers in the new class reminded students to report ready for action:

- **Inventory your gear.**

Students sometimes show up with missing items, suits that don't fit or brand-new suits laden with charcoal. Some units send new suits out for laundering; others leave it to individuals to wash suits at home, as many as four to six times, to render them wearable for training.

- **Bring all your field gear** — helmet, web belt and canteen — and your complete chemical ensemble: hood, mask, coat, pants, boots and gloves with cotton inserts.

- **Wash out your canteen and fill it with water.** Though the first classes did not practice use of the drinking tube in the mask, future classes will.

- **Bring your ability to survive and operate guide**, Air Force Handbook 32-4014, Vol. 4. □

Finance specialist receives unique opportunity to travel to interesting locales overseas

# 'MONEY GUY' ABROAD

**Master Sgt. Tim Turner**  
Public Affairs

**W**hen Master Sgt. Dave Fischer, 934th Airlift Wing financial management specialist and air reserve technician, had the so-called "money in the bank," he managed it wisely recently.

Even better, his tasking included the thrill of two weeks of travel to eight overseas countries, including five in the former Soviet Union.

Fischer served as a paying agent for the Air War College Regional Studies Group – Central Asia this spring, carrying \$40,000 and disbursing \$25,000 in cash to support the group's travel. He was selected for the job after Air Force officials asked Air Force Reserve Command to staff the position, which was then advertised through Reserve finance channels.

"I'll probably never get to do anything that great again," said Fischer, who had only been to one overseas location, Japan, during his previous 14 years of military service. "It was kind of unreal being over there. You should see my government passport – it has a bunch of unusual visas and stamps from different countries."

### 'Money guy'

Much of the \$40,000 handled by Fischer as the "money guy," a nickname he picked up from the aircrew, was required for various airport charges such as fuel, ground services and airport fees, he said. He picked up the cash at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., and boarded the KC-135 providing the airlift.

"I counted \$30,000 in hundreds, \$5,000 in 50s, \$4,000 in 20s and \$1,000 in fives," he said. "Then I was escorted by a security police specialist to the KC-135; it had a safe inside."

The aircraft, plus its passengers and their "banker," were accompanied by four Phoenix Ravens, elite security

forces assigned primarily to U.S. aircraft traveling in foreign countries.

Both the most and least airport charges came in Russian republics: a mere \$1,093 in Armenia and a whopping \$12,210 in Kazakstan.

### Time to travel

Most of Fischer's requirements were taken care of immediately upon landing at each location. "So every third or fourth day, I'd have something to do," he said. "I had the best job on the plane!"

After wrapping up money business, he was free to explore the local area while the student group visited local officials and military members. "I hung out with some of the McConnell crew – they were great," he said.

The overseas itinerary included stops in Stuttgart, Germany; Istanbul, Turkey; Yerevan, Armenia; Almaty, Kazakstan; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Ashkhabat, Turkmenistan; Baku, Azerbaijan; and Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom.

Fischer said he enjoyed viewing the crowded, busy city of Istanbul from the top of a fourth or fifth century tower but heard there were frequent terrorist incidents. "There was a terrorist attack before we arrived and another a day or two after we left," he said.

### Russian republics

Fischer enjoyed Kazakstan most, finding it fit his expectations of the former Soviet Union, now divided into 11 republics and called the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"Kazakstan is very close to China, with lots of industry and very polluted," he said. "I liked the big, open-air market and all the statues and war memorials. The embassy representative there was great, giving us a personal tour around the city."

Fischer noted dramatic distinctions in each Russian country. "It was a great learning experience," he said. "Some of the countries are surprising; many are a lot more developed and westernized, with large cities, shopping centers and hotels."

He said Turkmenistan, close to Iran, was very clean and modern. Krygyzstan was the most rural, located in the mountains.

"We had a traditional meal in a ski chalet there," he said, finding the soup or "borscht" delicious. "I bought a bottle of vodka there, and I should have bought a case!"

In fact, Fischer most regretted how few souvenirs he could bring home, since he would have to carry everything back via commercial aircraft after being dropped off at McConnell to return home. But perhaps his best souvenirs will be his fond memories of his travels abroad.

"Even my dad, **Tech. Sgt. Gary Fischer**, a C-119 loadmaster here in the early '60s, didn't get to travel to places like this," he said. "Who knows, I could be one of the few 934th reservists to ever visit the former Soviet Union." □



Fischer

## Medals

### Meritorious Service Medal

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Anderson, APS, retired

Tech. Sgt. Donald Gustafson, APS, retired

Master Sgt. David Hammer, AW

Maj. Douglas Trogstad, AW

### Aerial Achievement Medal

Tech. Sgt. Conrad Kluck, MXS

### Air Force Commendation Medal

Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Irving, ASTS

Tech. Sgt. John Johnson, AW, first oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. Phillip Kvamme, MXS

Capt. David Mattson, APS, first OLC

1st Lt. David Ordahl, CES, second OLC

Capt. Patricia Rautiola, AES

Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Shores, MXS

Senior Master Sgt. Timothy

Tamlyn, CES

### Air Force Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Boelter, CES

Senior Airman James Endres, CES

Tech. Sgt. Michael Ginapp, MSF

Tech. Sgt. Charles Matthews, CES

Tech. Sgt. David Nelson, CES

Staff Sgt. Robert Payne, CES

Staff Sgt. James Rutz, SVS, first OLC

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Sommerfield, CES

Master Sgt. Robert Swartout, CES

## Promotions

Maj. Daniel Anderson, AES

Maj. Kirby Bauer, CF

Maj. Linda Boyda, AW

Maj. Toby Hammer, MXS

Maj. Donald Kom, CES

*The following were selected for promotion to major with a future pin-on date:*

Capt. Kathy Bratsch, AW

Capt. Scott Calvert, SVS

Capt. Michael Dargen, AS

Capt. Jeffrey Dyrhaug, AS

Capt. Drew Hansen, AS

Capt. Edna Langenfeld, ASTS

Capt. Jerin McRath, ASTS

Chaplain (Capt.) Charles Perry, AW

Capt. Patricia Rautiola, AES

Capt. Mark Vijums, OSF

## Newcomers

- Senior Airman Iamayca Chavannes, ASTS, *Air Reserve Personnel Center*

- Senior Airman Eric Drexler, LSS, *McGuire AFB, N.J.*

- Staff Sgt. Charles Free, AES, *Grand Forks AFB, N.D.*

- Staff Sgt. Kathleen Gottschalk, ASTS, *Tinker AFB, Okla.*

- Capt. Marianne Kwiatkowski, ASTS, *Illinois Air National Guard*

- Airman 1st Class Derrick Marinac, APS, *non-prior service*

- Senior Airman Joseph McAllister, SFS, *Grand Forks AFB, N.D.*

- Airman 1st Class David Nguyen, APS, *non-prior service*

- Senior Airman Crystal Rosten, ASTS, *Grand Forks AFB, N.D.*

- Staff Sgt. Reno Stradiotto, MXS, *Peterson AFB, Colo.*

### Air reserve technicians

- Tech. Sgt. Steven Anderson, SFS, *from local SFS reservist position*

- Capt. Christopher Simpson, SFS, *Langley AFB, Va.*

- Tech. Sgt. Ricky Smasal, MXS, *Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.*

### Civilians

- James Drinkwater, FMF, *U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, Calif.*

- Thomas Fronk, CEC, *private consulting engineering company, Minneapolis*

## Achievements

*The following members completed mandatory correspondence courses or career development courses with a score of 90 or above:*

Staff Sgt. Robert Larson, ASTS

Senior Airman Nicole Scheuer, ASTS

## Marriages

- **Del Deatherage**, MXS, and **Katie Mealey** were married July 30.

## Births

- **Taj Alexander**, OSF, and **Jill Hunter** have a new daughter, **Jalyce Ashley Alexander**, born on July 9, weighing 7 pounds.

## Retirements

- Master Sgt. Thomas Arneson, APS, 20 years

- Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Belle-Isle, CES, 24 years

- Tech. Sgt. Dennis Billadeau, CES, 24 years

- Master Sgt. David Blom, CES, 26 years

- Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Emberland, CES, 30 years

- Tech. Sgt. Richard Hardenbrook, CES, 20 years

- Tech. Sgt. Anne Huttala, CF, 20 years

- Senior Master Sgt. Randy Knish, CES, 21 years

- Tech. Sgt. Tony Kubat, APS, 20 years

- Senior Master Sgt. John Nirschl, CES, 20 years

- Master Sgt. Thomas Overman, CES, 26 years

- Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Parenteau, MXS, 20 years □

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## News

### Fun & leisure

#### **NCO Club**

• **A hog roast** will be held on Saturday, Aug. 28. Other items on the menu include corn on the cob, roasted potatoes and salad bar. Everyone will receive something free!

• **NCO Club members** can enjoy dinner by reservation at the Officers Club any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening.

☎Call Ext. 1655 for details on NCO Club activities.

#### **Officers Club**

• **The annual classic car show** is set for Saturday, Aug. 7. Members are invited to show their cars or just take a look. Lunch of barbecue beef and beverages will be available.

• **A hog roast** is planned for Monday, Aug. 16. Tickets are \$13 each and must be purchased in advance from the bartender. Tickets are limited to the first 250 people.

☎For dinner reservations at the club or information on other activities, call Ext. 3678.

#### **Fitness center**

**Cardio fitness** activities will be offered all month, including hiking, biking or climbing at your favorite state park.

☎Call for information or a schedule of fitness center court times, Ext. 1GYM.

#### **Charity golf tournament**

Federal employees and retirees are invited to play in the Fourth

Annual Combined Federal Campaign Golf Tournament, Thursday, Sept. 16, at the Southern Hills Golf Course, Farmington, Minn.

The 18-hole tournament, four-person/best ball scramble offers a shotgun start at 11:30 a.m. Registration begins at 10 a.m. The \$46 fee includes green fee, prizes for low team score, flag prizes and a burger-and-brat dinner with a potato and fresh fruit salad. Carts are \$12 per player. Entries must be submitted by Friday, Aug. 20.

☎Call the Federal Executive Board for an entry form, (612) 713-7200, or call **Senior Master Sgt. Sharon Blalock**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Ext. 3570. ☐